



BUSINESS FOR  
**MONTANA'S**  
OUTDOORS

March 25, 2013

Dear Chairman Randall and members of the House Agricultural Committee:

We are writing to you as the leaders of growing Montana businesses to urge you to table HR4 the House Agriculture Committee. This inaccurate non-binding resolution opposing the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act sends the wrong message to the entrepreneurs creating new job growth and diversifying Montana's economy today.

Montana's outdoor assets and public lands are a large part of what makes this state unique, and are an important economic asset. Many businesses and individuals come to Montana because of the high quality of life associated with abundant public lands and outdoor recreation. These people bring jobs for Montanans and economic development to our state's communities. In short, the protection of our public lands and solid forest stewardship provided by the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act will help to ensure Montana's future economic prosperity.

Montana's economy outperforms the Nation's in large part due to our state's incredible outdoor assets, with high-wage service industries leading Montana's job growth. From 2000-2009, Montana created 4,477 net new businesses, while the U.S. saw 3% decline in business over the same time.

Our businesses are able to recruit talented, skilled employees because of the incredible landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities that will be protected by the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. Together, we employ over 300 Montanans from Billings to Whitefish in manufacturing and high tech businesses.

In short, protecting and restoring our national forests provides Montana communities, businesses and entrepreneurs with a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. Given the importance of a strong economy and our ability to compete globally, we respectfully request that you support continued investment in America's great outdoors, through community driven land-protection bills such as the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

Please oppose HR4.

Sincerely,

Spencer Williams, President  
West Paw Design  
Bozeman

Bill Berg, President  
Coolworks.com  
Gardiner

John Frandsen, Chief Product Officer  
Old Town Creative  
Whitefish

Lance Trebesch, Chief Executive Officer  
Ticket River & Ticketprinting.com  
Bozeman, Harlowton

Reed Gregerson, President  
Zaneray Group  
Whitefish

Jeff Welch, President  
Mercury CSC  
Bozeman

Jeff Batton, Chief Executive Officer  
The Natural Baby Company  
Bozeman

Daren Nordhagen, President  
Foundant Technologies  
Bozeman

Dan Austin, Owner and Director  
Austin Lehman Adventures  
Billings

Diane Bristol, Director of Marketing, Brand Management & Service  
Simms Fishing Products  
Bozeman

Paul Marshall, Owner  
Draughtworks Brewery  
Missoula

Alex Philp, Owner & Founder  
GCS Research  
Missoula